

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Skrzynski

Serial No: 09/586,557  
Filing Date: May 31, 2000

For: HIERARCHICAL  
DEPENDABILITY FOR OPEN  
DISTRIBUTED  
ENVIRONMENTS

Examiner: Levitan, Dmitry

Art Unit: 2662

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on the below date with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patent, P.O. Box 1450, Arlington, VA 22313-1450 on:

Date: March 8, 2006

By: Sara E. Armstrong  
Sara E. Armstrong

**PRELIMINARY RESPONSE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the Notice of Allowance mailed December 23, 2005. Applicants hereby submit an Information Disclosure Statement citing references found in a related case. Applicants also submit an RCE.

The Examiner, in the Notice of Allowance, indicated new formal drawings were needed based on his Office Action of August 18, 2003. Applicants responded to this Action with amendments being made to the specification, negating the need for changes to be made to the Formals. Applicants believe that the formal drawings as filed should therefore be found acceptable.

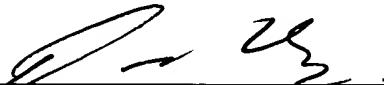
The Examiner has not yet acknowledged Applicants' Information Disclosure Statement submitted with the application on May 31, 2000. A copy of the IDS and 1449 are attached for the convenience of the Examiner. Applicants respectfully request a signed copy of the PTO 1449 form from the Examiner.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance after entry of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Date: 8 March 06

Respectfully submitted,

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